

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 04599 01 OF 02 141754Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----104695 141759Z /41

O R 141704Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6731
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04599

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, ET, SO, GW
SUBJECT: HORN OF AFRICA; SOMALI WITHDRAWAL

REFS: (A) STATE 61431; (B) BONN 4417; (C) BONN 4469;
(D) BONN 4585

SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS ANXIOUS FOR INFORMATION
ON WHAT FORM US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA WILL
TAKE AND WHEN IT MIGHT BE SENT. THE FRG IS READY TO
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PROCEED WITH MORE AID TO SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA.
END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN OFFICE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
AFRICAN AFFAIRS MUELLER ASKED US TODAY FOR MORE
DETAILS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDUCEMENTS
LISTED IN PARA 1 D OF REFTEL A. MUELLER SAID THE

FOREIGN OFFICE APPRECIATED THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE CHARGE TO VAN WELL ON MARCH 10 (REFTEL A) AND WAS TAKING OUR VIEWS FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IN ITS OWN DELIBERATIONS ON THE SITUATION. HE NOTED THAT THE FRG HAD HURRIED TO RELEASE A PRESS STATEMENT ON THE SOMALI WITHDRAWAL (REFTEL C) WHICH WAS IN LINE WITH OUR SUGGESTIONS.

2. AS VAN WELL HAD SAID PREVIOUSLY (REFTELS B AND D), THE FRG IS PREPARED TO LEND FURTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA. MUELLER OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT BEFORE DOING SO, THE FRG WOULD APPRECIATE CURRENT US VIEWS ON THE EXTENT OF THE SOMALI WITHDRAWAL. SPECIFICALLY, THE FRG WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT EXTENT OF WITHDRAWAL THE US WOULD CONSIDER ADEQUATE TO TRIGGER THE ECONOMIC AND DEFENSIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE REFERRED TO IN PARA 1 D OF REFTEL A. THE FRG WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON THE DETAILS OF PROPOSED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SO AS TO AVOID ANY DUPLICATION OF EFFORT. (MUELLER COMMENTED, IN PASSING, THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE WAS LESS CONCERNED WITH THE SPECIFICS OF US MILITARY AID, SINCE THIS WAS AN AREA BLOCKED TO THE FRG.)

3. THE FRG, MUELLER SAID, HAS BEEN PREPARED TO INITIATE SHIPMENT OF 100 TRUCKS (REFTEL B) FOR
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SEVERAL WEEKS BUT HAD HESITATED PENDING A CLEARER PICTURE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN THE OGADEN FIGHTING. THE FRG IS READY TO PROCEED NOW BUT IS EXTREMELY NERVOUS ABOUT ACTING PREMATURELY. IF BONN IS SEEN AS JUMPING THE GUN, ESPECIALLY WITH AID THAT COULD

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----104299 141800Z /41

O R 141704Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6732
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 04599

EXDIS

HAVE SECONDARY MILITARY APPLICATIONS, CERTAIN VOICES
IN ADDIS (READ GDR) WOULD SURELY RENEW ATTACKS
ON THE FRG FOR AIDING AN UNREPENTANT AGGRESSOR. FOR
THIS REASON, MUELLER CONCLUDED, THE FRG WAS ANXIOUS
TO COORDINATE ANY AID TO SOMALIA CLOSELY WITH US.

4. IN A RELATED MATTER, MUELLER EXPANDED ON HIS
CONVERSATION REPORTED REFTEL D ON FISHING VESSELS TO
SOMALIA. THE SOMALI MINISTER OF FISHERIES IS CURRENTLY
IN BREMEN DISCUSSING POSSIBLE CONTRACTS FOR FISHING
VESSELS WITH SEVERAL SHIPBUILDERS. ACCORDING TO
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MUELLER, THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE PURELY COMMERCIAL;
THE FRG HAS NOT DECIDED ON ANY GRANTS FOR THIS
PURPOSE. MUELLER OPINED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG
WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO KEEP THE MEN AT THE
SHIPYARDS AT WORK AND THE FRG "MIGHT FUND
CONSTRUCTION OF 1 OR 2" OF THESE VESSELS.

5. THE FRG HAS, NEVERTHELESS, NOT GIVEN UP ON ITS
STORMY RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA.
MUELLER TOLD US THE FOREIGN OFFICE HOPES TO BE ABLE
TO ANNOUNCE SOON A GRANT OF DM 5 MILLION IN
HUMANITARIAN AID TO ETHIOPIA INTENDED FOR THOSE
AFFECTED BY THE OGADEN FIGHTING.
MEEHAN

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